

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A device for issuing commands to a remote system, said device comprising:
- a memory for storing a plurality of translations, each translating between a common plurality of functions and custom signals for implementing said common plurality of functions on a respective remote system;
- 10 a selector for selecting a particular translation of said plurality of translations for a particular remote system;
- a display screen for displaying on-screen icons representing said common plurality of functions wherein said on-screen icons comprise respective text corresponding to said common plurality of functions; and
- 15 a processor for responding to a selected on-screen icon associated with a selected common function, obtaining a custom signal from said particular translation corresponding to said selected common function and issuing said custom signal to said particular remote system.
- 20 2. A device as described in Claim 1 wherein said particular remote system is a remote voicemail system and wherein said particular custom signals cause navigation through said remote voicemail system.

3. A device as described in Claim 1 wherein said display screen is configurable between a first viewable size configuration and a second, larger, viewable size configuration.

5 4. A device as described in Claim 3 wherein a first plurality of icons are displayed on said display screen when in said first viewable size configuration and wherein a second plurality of icons are displayed on said display screen when in said second viewable size configuration.

10 5. A device as described in Claim 4 wherein said first plurality of icons correspond to basic common functions and wherein said second plurality of icons correspond to extended common functions that include said basic common functions.

15 6. A device as described in Claim 1 wherein said on-screen icons appear as phone key images, each key image comprising a respective text label that is associated with a respective common function.

20 7. A device as described in Claim 1 wherein said selector is a memory cell containing data therein.

8. A device as described in Claim 1 wherein said custom signals are dial tone signals.

9. A device as described in Claim 1 wherein said custom signal
5 corresponding to said selected custom function is wirelessly communicated to said remote system.

10. A device for issuing commands to a voicemail system, said device comprising:

10 a memory for storing a first translation between a common plurality of functions and first custom signals for implementing said common plurality of functions on a first voicemail system, said first custom signals for causing voicemail navigation through said first voicemail system;

a display screen for displaying on-screen icons representing said common
15 plurality of functions wherein said on-screen icons comprise respective text corresponding to said common plurality of functions; and

a processor for responding to a selected on-screen icon associated with a selected common function, obtaining a custom signal from said first translation corresponding to said selected common function and issuing said custom signal
20 to said first voicemail system.

11. A device as described in Claim 10 wherein said memory further comprises a second translation between said common plurality of functions and second custom signals for implementing said common plurality of functions on a second voicemail system, said second custom signals for causing voicemail
5 navigation through said second voicemail system.

12. A device as described in Claim 11 wherein said memory further comprises a third translation between said common plurality of functions and third custom signals for implementing said common plurality of functions on a
10 third voicemail system, said third custom signals for causing voicemail navigation through said third voicemail system.

13. A device as described in Claim 11 further comprising a selector for selecting between said first and second translations of said memory.
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14. A device as described in Claim 12 further comprising a selector for selecting between said first, second and third translations of said memory.

15. A device as described in Claim 10 wherein said display screen is
20 configurable between a first viewable size configuration and a second, larger, viewable size configuration.

16. A device as described in Claim 15 wherein a first plurality of icons are displayed on said display screen when in said first viewable size configuration and wherein a second plurality of icons are displayed on said display screen when in said second viewable size configuration.

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17. A device as described in Claim 16 wherein said first plurality of icons correspond to basic common functions and wherein said second plurality of icons correspond to extended common functions that include said basic common functions.

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18. A device as described in Claim 10 wherein said on-screen icons appear as phone key images, each key image comprising a respective text label that is associated with a respective common function.

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19. A device as described in Claim 10 wherein said first custom signals are dial tone signals.

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20. A device as described in Claim 19 wherein said custom signal corresponding to said selected custom function is wirelessly communicated to said first voicemail system and wherein said first voicemail system is a remote voicemail system.

21. A computer implemented method of issuing commands to a remote system, said method comprising:

maintaining a plurality of translations in a memory, each translation for translating between a common plurality of functions and custom signals for

5 implementing said common plurality of functions on a respective remote system;

selecting a particular translation of said plurality of translations for a particular remote system;

displaying on-screen icons representing said common plurality of functions wherein said on-screen icons comprise respective text corresponding to said

10 common plurality of functions; and

responding to a selected on-screen icon associated with a selected common function by:

obtaining a custom signal from said particular translation

corresponding to said selected common function; and

15 issuing said custom signal to said particular remote system.

22. A method as described in Claim 21 wherein said particular remote system is a remote voicemail system and wherein said particular custom signals cause navigation through said remote voicemail system.

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23. A method as described in Claim 22 wherein said on-screen icons are displayed on a display screen that is configurable between a first viewable size configuration and a second, larger, viewable size configuration.

5 24. A method as described in Claim 23 wherein said displaying comprises:

displaying a first plurality of icons on said display screen when said display screen is in said first viewable size configuration; and

displaying a second plurality of icons on said display screen when said
10 display screen is in said second viewable size configuration.

25. A method as described in Claim 24 wherein said first plurality of icons correspond to basic common functions and wherein said second plurality of icons correspond to extended common functions that include said basic common
15 functions.

26. A method as described in Claim 22 wherein said on-screen icons appear as phone key images, each key image comprising a respective text label that is associated with a respective common function.

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27. A method as described in Claim 22 wherein said custom signals are dial tone signals.

28. A method as described in Claim 22 wherein said issuing said custom signal comprises wirelessly communicating said custom signal corresponding to said selected custom function to said remote system.

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